

THE STAR ROUTES.

WILSON'S POWERFUL ARGUMENT

Any Person Without Indictment by the
Grand Jury Denied—Scenes in
Court Yesterday.

The announcement that the argument in the star-route cases would begin in the Criminal Court yesterday served to attract a crowd which fully an hour before the court convened occupied every available seat in the room. Even the class was represented—merchants, doctors, mechanics, but the colored people did not turn out very strong. A delegation of short-handlers arrived early on the ground, and the lower galleries generally devoted to the use of the members of the bar was quickly covered with legal paper and inkstands. The dock allotted to prisoners was also filled with spectators, and the seats of the petit jurors were pre-empted by a number of enterprising spectators desirous of securing a seat in the gallery. The trial was commenced at eleven, and the first case was the case of *State vs. ...*

were not allowed to occupy the seats long, however, for the members of the jury were unusual prompt in their attendance, and the balliffs were compelled to dislodge the intruders. There was considerable confusion before the court met, as the spectators could not refrain from discussing the case, and very frequently the argument assumed a very high pitch. Justice Cox was very punctual, and the hands on the large clock were just pointing to twelve when the balliff chanted the familiar "Oyez, Oyez!" All persons having business before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, holding criminal term, will draw near and give their attention, for the court is now open." Messrs. Braden, French, and Turner, of the defendants, were

Mr. Jeremiah Wilson was pretty well advanced in years, and his counsel for the defense were the first to arrive at the court-room. He marched into the court-room in single file, Colonel Rogers leading, followed by Messrs. Jeremiah Wilson, Jeff Chandler, S. S. Shellbarger, J. C. Sypher, and Colonel Tutten. Shortly after they were seated a venerable, looking gentleman wearing a wide brimmed white heaver hat, dark suit and white ruffles at the wrists, came slowly down the aisle and considerable speculation was indulged in as to who the stranger was. It was quickly whispered among the throng that the new arrival was Mr. B. H. Brewster, one of the special attorneys for the Government. Close behind him came Colonel William A. Co-

The prosecution. The trio were assigned seats at the desk of District Attorney Corkhill, and after removing their hats and overcoats they sent a messenger into the law library for a supply of the case-bound volumes usually patronized by the legal fraternity. Both sides took an active part in the proceedings, and when the last book had been deposited on the tables the stock of legal lore among many a young barrister present turned green with envy. The spectators seemed awed by the proximity of so much talent and books, and during the entire proceedings of the day the bailiffs held a sinecure in preserving order. Among the crowd were Hon. W. E. Chandler, Mr. Hallet Kilbourn, Thomas J. Durant, ex-United States District Attorney H. H. Wells, Columbus Alexander,

H. Bradley, Jr. Z. T. Sowers, and Detective Gibson. The counsel for the defendants occupied seats at the long table facing the Court. Mr. Wilson began at the end nearest Mr. Dill, and Colonel Ingraham in easy supporting distance, flanked by Messrs. Shellabarger and Sypher, while Messrs. Totten and Chandler covered the rear. Justice Cox, granting the request of the District Attorney for the disposition of some petty case, said: "Let us proceed with the other case." Before any more came from either side Mr. Leigh Robinson, one of Guiteau's counsel, addressed the court in reference to another postponement of his client's case, and was half-past ten o'clock when he concluded his argument. He had barely resumed his seat when the court adjourned in the usual manner.

Argument of Hon. J. M. Wilson.
If Your Honor please, I presume it unnecessary that I should occupy any time in stating the status of the present question upon record of the court. It is sufficient to say that the 28th of September a paper, of which this (information) is a copy, was presented to Your Honor to be filed as an information against the defendant. It was made to allow that there was to go upon the record as an information, certain reasons were given why at that time should be permitted to be filed. Not having been present in court at the time that occurred, I have no means of knowing what proceedings, other than those which I have stated, might have taken place.

[illegible]

I CHALLENGE THE LEARNED COUNSEL, on the other side, when they come to argue case to point. Your Honor, I am not an authority in this proceeding, and I now assert, challenge contradiction upon that point, this paper can be filed at all it must be filed cause it is a common law proceeding which come down to us from our English ancestors. If Your Honor please, the learned counsel on the other side, in case of grave as this, and to need to arrest and try on an information, must be a very great surprise to Your Honor, as it and continues to be, to the entire profession of the circle of learned attorneys, I now appear on behalf of the Government. While the

PROCEEDING BY INFORMATION is, we are told, as old as the common law, it is, we are told, the vehicle of the memory of

that it always regarded as a most extraordinary remedy, so extraordinary that it was not to be used more than three days of that monum-
tous injustice, wrong and oppression, the Court of
Chamber, regarded and treated it with disre-
spect. While it was a recognized legal instrument, it
known as the representative of arbitrary iron-
clad power, a weapon of the tyrant in the hands
of the monarch against the people. It was an in-
strument of terror in the history of England and
the will of the monarch was everything and
rights and liberties of the people nothing.

IT WAS A DEVICE

by which the Crown could avoid that other in-
strument of the law which stood as a shield to the
people against unjust accusations, a shield to the
people against the lawless actions, the outrages
and the cruelties that were perpetrated by
means and under this name. It is enough to

THAT WAS THE RED BLOOD, the very life and the very soul of our Government. Our manly power is only mentioned here as a defense, an exonerated thing of the past, a shadow even is forbidden to be cast upon this. We might well expect, therefore, that this element of the Crown would not be found in the new order of things, and it is not. In the single instance can be found of an attempt to sort it as a means of prosecution for a crime. During that period of eighty years

laws, who that form of proceeding has been previously authorized by statute,

THIS DISTRICT WAS CEDED

to the United States by the State of Maryland in 1801, and by act of Congress the laws and usages of the District, which were made the laws of Maryland prior to that date, were otherwise provided for by Congress. That was eighty years ago, during that eighty years not a single case is found in which a prosecution by information attempted, except for very minor offenses by Police Court, by express authority of the statute.

FOR EIGHTY YEARS MORE,

prior to the date of the cession, under the usages of the State of Maryland (which usages came down to this District, not an instance is to be found of such a proceeding as that

to answer has been wholly unknown for
than a century and a half; and I challenge
learned friends on the other side to show me
any such proceedings has been had in this
tion within that time. I call their attention
I CALL YOUR HONOR'S ATTENTION,
to the case of Taylor vs. Thompson (5 Peters,
as showing that the right to proceed in this
information, if it ever existed in Maryland

[Continued on Second Page.]